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*Report on the pension funds of the city of New York. Part III. A proposed plan to cover all entrants into the municipal service with provision for optional participation by present employees of the city of New York.* (New York: Commission on Pensions. 1918. Pp. 42.)

*The statutes, regulations, and orders relating to national health insurance, with notes, cross references, and an index.* (London: National Health Insurance Joint Committee. 1918. Pp. 679. 2s. 6d.)

*Camara de diputados de la Nacion. Proyecto de Código de Seguro Nacional con Exposicion de Motivos y Proyecto de Ley Basica.* (Buenos Aires. 1917. Pp. 539.)

### Pauperism, Charities, and Relief Measures

#### NEW BOOKS

BOGEN, B. D. *Jewish philanthropy.* (New York: Macmillan. 1918.)

WATSON, F. D., editor. *Social work with families.* Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, vol. LXXVII, May, 1918. (Philadelphia: The Academy. 1918. Pp. ix, 198.)

WEBB, MRS. S. *The abolition of the poor law.* (London: The Fabian Society. 1918. Pp. 11.)

### Socialism and Co-operative Enterprises

*Les Sociétés Coopératives de Consommation.* By CHARLES GIDE. (Paris: Larose et Forcel. 1917. Pp. xix, 354.)

It is now almost a full generation since Professor Gide first showed that interest in coöperation which has never flagged. This last study (17 chapters of 354 pages) is easily his most valuable contribution to the movement, because the reactions of the war have given him a still more resolute faith in a future where "*la coopération serait intégralement réalisée.*" The first edition on which this far more adequate work is based was written fourteen years ago. In 1910, after syndicalism had risen, another edition appeared, when the outlook for consumers' societies was disheartening. From the first, profit sharers, producers, and credit associations had the field. The favors of the state and the municipalities were all for these more capitalistic organizations. All the noise in parliament and at banquets was over these, while for the consumers—"un grand silence se fait."

In the present volume the author can rejoice at this, because the free and voluntary character of the more democratic movement now appears and more especially because the years of bitter polemics over the relations of socialism to coöperation have given

way to dispassionate discussion. To the Marxian, coöperation was ridiculed as "bourgeois masquerading" or as "a petty palliative." Even when Belgian socialists had dotted the country with *coopératives* entirely in the interests of the party, French socialists were hostile.

Jules Guesde said, "We socialists will not sell ourselves *pour un plat de lentilles*." This opposition of socialist orthodoxy was long justified and did besides a genuine service. Especially in France and for that part of the English movement led by the apostles of "labor copartnership," coöperation was capitalistic and was meant to be so. Socialist criticism helped to clear discussion on this most fundamental of issues. It is in the later chapters dealing with these distinctions that M. Gide does conspicuous service. Nowhere more than in the United States has the coöperative propaganda suffered from confusing profit sharing, "copartnership," "agricultural," "productive," and credit societies with *consumers* coöperation. The syndicalists claim that the combined unions in any industry should own and direct the work of production. This has brought out the antagonism between labor as producer and labor as consumer. Such slipshod phrases as "but we are all consumers" (meant to imply that the entire working class has only common interests) should no longer deceive any one really concerned with the facts.

But it is within the coöperative movement itself that we have the most enlightening education on "labor interests." A coöperative business—like the English for example—employs many thousands of men and women precisely as a private employer hires them. These workingmen coöperators have then to deal on a great scale with every phase of the "labor question." They have to face trade unions, strikes, and all sorts of demands known to any private business. The long internal struggle has had educational results as valuable for labor as for society in general. It has forced clearer and closer definition of terms. It has compelled a great multitude of labor men in Europe to decide for themselves whether profit sharing is wise and desirable in one of their own factories; whether the minimum wage and eight hours are generally possible; whether it is desirable or not to do away with competition; whether interest on loans is after all (as socialist theory teaches) a form of theft. These workfolk never would have taken lessons from the outside on these points. Long and repeated experience of their own has done and is doing a disciplin-

ary service inside the labor ranks that will prove the most important factor in future social reconstruction.

Professor Gide does not dwell upon this special feature; but with admirable analysis he shows the changes in the movement which make consumers' coöperation one of the most powerful and hopeful factors in all attempts to get a real meaning into "industrial democracy."

The volume is so far up to date that the extraordinary growth of the movement since the war is clearly indicated. He quotes Professor Stein, "Where should we have been in our besieged Fatherland if it had not been for the coöperators?" He shows the wretched Belgian refugees beginning at once to organize their store in Holland. He notes that the Italian *Consorzio* (Wholesale) has more than doubled its business since the war—also the wholesale at Hamburg.

In spite of all the caution and coolness with which he tells the story, Professor Gide leaves us in no doubt about his faith in the future of consumers' coöperation. He does not see in it any millennial triumph but the sure indications of a political and economic order in which the democratic equalities will have made most substantial gains.

JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS.

#### NEW BOOKS

BRONSHTEIN, L. D. *Our revolution; essays on working-class and international revolution, 1904-1917*. Collected and translated with biography and explanatory notes by M. J. OLGIN. (New York: Holt. 1918. Pp. 220.)

DAULNY, P. *L'injustice du socialisme. Les doctrines révolutionnaires en Allemagne et en France. Part II. Critique des doctrines*. (Paris: Bureaux de la Foi Catholique, 25 rue Vanneau. 1918. Pp. xvi, 176.)

HARRIS, E. P. *Coöperation: the hope of the consumer*. (New York: Macmillan. 1918. Pp. xxii, 328. \$2.)

The system of distribution in the United States does not confine its functions to furnishing what consumers want, but exerts "a subtle but powerful and far-reaching influence in determining what the consumer shall want and what he shall buy." Under the influence of aggressive marketing consumers buy when they should not spend, and buy things not suited to their needs. The voice of thousands of advertisers is appealing to the public to want in order that the advertiser may profit from their wants. Competition among distributors is giving way to chain stores and other mammoth combinations, with added power to increase wants of advertised goods and conceal competitive profits. Due to this quest for concealed com-